Opening of new Post Offices in Nandla, Himachal Pradesh

209. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for opening of new sub-post offices in the rural and hilly areas;

(b) whether Government will consider to open a new post office in village Nandla in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh have a population of more than 1500; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The guidelines for opening of new sub-post office in rural and hilly areas are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Opening of a new post office at village Nandla in district Shimla of Himachal Pradesh has been examined and found not justified under the existing distance and financial norms for opening of new post office laid down by the Department.

Statement

Guidelines for opening Post Offices

3. *Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branches Post Offices:*

3.1. *Population:*

(c) *In Normal Areas:*

3000 population in a group of villages (including the Proposed Post Office village)

(d) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

3.2. *Distance:*

(c) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 kms.

(d) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inacessible Areas:*

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

3.3. *Anticipated Income:*

(c) *In Normal Areas:*

The minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^1/_3$% of the cost.

(d) *In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:*

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

2. *Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub-Post Offices:*

(a) *In Rural Areas:*

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

OFC cable connectivity under Jangla exchange in Shimla

†210. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the local Member of Parliament regarding connection of Nandla, Magwani, Kulgaon, Siroli, Barwouli and Thali under Jangla Telephone Exchange in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh with OFC;

(b) whether Government propose to connect these villages with OFC during the year 2001-2002; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.